United Nations S/2001/1137

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 November 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 30 November 2001 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from Venezuela, submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Chairman
Counter-Terrorism Committee

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Annex

[Original: Spanish]

Letter dated 20 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Acting Secretary of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

I have the honour to address you in connection with my communication of 8 November 2001 and your communication of 26 October 2001 concerning the reports that Member States are to submit to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001).

In that regard, I enclose herewith, in advance of the report which Venezuela will submit pursuant to the above-mentioned resolution 1373 (2001), information on the measures recently taken by Venezuela in order to combat terrorism.

(*Signed*) Milos **Alcalay**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosure

Measures taken by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela against terrorism

In view of the events that took place in the United States of America on 11 September 2001, the Venezuelan authorities have been strengthening all areas of security at the national level. In that context, they report the following:

- In accordance with the Organization of American States resolution on "Strengthening hemispheric cooperation to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism", Venezuelan representatives have been participating in the meetings of the Inter-American Committee on Terrorism, whenever they are convened, to identify urgent decisions needed to enhance inter-American cooperation to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in the hemisphere.
- Venezuela has signed an agreement, which is now in force, on the exchange of police information with the United States of America.
- Immigration control has been tightened in a coordinated effort by all security agencies at border posts and airport zones; in the last two weeks of September, three Arab nationals with forged documents were detained.
- Sea and river patrols near navigation canals, ports and basic State industries, together with physical security in strategic State enterprises (refineries, hydroelectric plants and others), have been reinforced by members of the Venezuelan armed forces.
- The Air Force has revised its air defence procedures and provisions for the detection, interception, identification and shooting down of aircraft; these were discussed with the authorities of the Ministry of Infrastructure with regard to the modification and implementation of certain statutes of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in respect of aviation rules and agreements between countries.
- At the same time, air patrols by combat aircraft and helicopters in border areas have been intensified, in perfect coordination with neighbouring countries and the other Venezuelan armed forces, in accordance with the guidelines set forth in bilateral agreements such as the Bilateral Border Commission (COMBIFRON).
- Under the doctrinal guidelines of the Air Force (Search and Seizure Plan), civil aircraft flying crop dusting missions have been checked and identified.
- Direct exchange of information with Interpol Washington and with the General Secretariat of Interpol in France on the monitoring of all citizens in our country who, in one way or another, could be considered suspicious.
- Monitoring of migratory movements of all foreign citizens, at the request of the Government of the United States or any other State, who are for some reason suspected of any unusual activity.
- Increased control by the Office of the Superintendent of Banking over suspicious financial transfers and immediate report thereof to State security agencies to enable them to investigate and take appropriate steps.

- In the context of the Inter-American Committee on Terrorism, and in connection with Financial Intelligence Units, Venezuela wishes to report that these Units have been in operation in our country, supported by law, for about 10 years, under the Organic Law on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and the Venezuelan Central Bank Act.

- Moreover, an investigative unit called the "Anti-Money-Laundering Division" is in charge of financial follow-up of all unusual or suspicious banking transactions. The country's financial institutions, registries and notaries are required by law to report to the criminal investigation authorities any transaction above a certain amount in national or foreign currency that may be considered suspicious in any way.

- Venezuela has received lists of citizens accused of terrorism at the international level from the General Secretariat of Interpol, Interpol Peru and Interpol Washington; these are being processed by the National Office of Identification, Migratory Movements and State Security Agencies.